

**REMARKS:**

Claims 1-3 and 5-9, 11 and 13-17 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Claims 4, 10 and 12 have been canceled.

This amendment is being filed with an RCE and the required fee of \$810. The commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any under or overpayment to this firm's deposit account number 14-1431.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9, 11, 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sefton et al. (GB 2,342,419 A) in view of Wasson (US 6,621,516 B1). The stated basis of this rejection is that it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the running gears of Wasson to the pipe inspection device of Sefton. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons set forth more fully below.

Sefton discloses a pipe inspection device comprising a protective casing 5 for housing two cameras 11 and 15, wherein a forward-looking camera 11 and a sideways-looking camera 15 are disposed in a member 23, which is rotatably disposed within the casing 5. The casing 5 is fastened to a semi-rigid rod 3 via screw threads (see Fig. 1 and 2 and page 3, line 21). Thus, the casing 5 of Sefton is not mounted on gimbal bearings as recited in independent claims 1 and 9.

Further, Sefton discloses a single motor 29 which rotates the sideways-looking camera 15 only or rotates both forward- and sideways-looking cameras 11 and 15 simultaneously (see page 3, line 33 - page 4, line 7). Thus, Sefton does not disclose "motors" as recited in claims 1 and 9. Moreover, the motor 29 of Sefton does not swivel the casing 5, as recited in claims 1 and 9. In Sefton, forward-looking camera 11 always

looks forward, whereas sideways looking camera may rotate about 360° radially.

The orientation of the line of sight of the forward-looking camera 11 and the orientation of the line of sight of the sideways-looking camera 15 of Sefton are constructively conditioned to always be orthogonal (see Fig. 3), and therefore always two lines of sight always exist in the operative states of Sefton's cameras. Both cameras may be operative at the same time. Sefton does not disclose any means for rotating the casing 5 or the member 23 so that the line of sight of the sideways-looking camera 15 after rotation could coincide with the line of sight of the forward-looking camera 11 before rotation, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Sefton implicitly discloses a method for the inspection of a pipe section by presenting a device for the inspection of pipe sections. A display of the results of the inspection of the pipe section is also described (see page 4, lines 7 - 11 and lines 24 - 30). However, Sefton does not disclose an exposure of the circumference of the pipe section, an unrolling of the circumference, creation of a locus for the unrolling, inspection of details separately in time from the exposure of the circumference, and an automatic assignment of the details to the locus, as recited in claim 9.

Nor does Wasson disclose those elements recited in claims 1 and 9 which are not present in Sefton. Rather, Wasson discloses a pipe inspection device comprising a single panoramic camera 12 being mounted on a cart 14 acting as a running gear (see column 3, lines 46 - 51). A four-fold cantilever 16 serves as a linkage between the cart 14 and the camera 12. The camera 12 is rotatable around a horizontally aligned pin 50 (see Fig. 1 and column 3, lines 56 - 59). Except for camera 12, no additional cameras are disclosed, as claimed by claim 1 of the invention.

The camera mounting means of Wasson comprises four-fold cantilever 16 and a rotary actuator 52 in combination with the pin 50, which provides a horizontally aligned rotation axis. Thus, the position of the camera 12 is shiftable parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cart 14 (see claim 7) and the orientation of the camera 12 given by an axis of the lens 20 is tiltable (see claim 8) within a vertical plane which also hosts the longitudinal axis of the cart 14 (see Fig. 1). However, no left-right-swivelling of the camera 12 with respect to the longitudinal axis of the cart 14 is possible. Thus, no gimballed system for bearing the housing, as recited in claims 1 and 9, is present.

Wasson also discloses a method for the inspection of a pipe section which comprises the following steps: transmitting image signals B from the camera 66 through a signal transmitter 82; receiving image signals B through a remote command center 84; controlling the transmission and reception by control means 78; storing the image signals B on data processing means 86; and displaying the image signals B on a monitor 88 (see column 5, lines 27 - 30). On occasion, for instance, if a damaged area of the inside of the pipe is detected by an operator 90, a position signal A is linked to the corresponding image (see column 5, lines 31 - 33). Postprocessing of the image signals B also includes selection of an area of the panoramic view, and magnification of the scene in order to inspect details after the exposure has occurred (see column 5, lines 39 - 43). However, Wasson does not disclose an unrolling of the circumference, creation of a locus for the unrolling, and an automatic assignment of the details to the locus, as recited in claim 9.

Even assuming arguendo, that the teachings of Sefton in combination with those of Wasson would enable a person ordinary skilled in the art to combine the cart 14 and the four-fold cantilever 16 of Wasson with the casing 5 of Sefton and its two cameras having

orthogonal lines of view, and although the result would be a device in which the casing 5 may be lifted by the four-fold cantilever 16 there would, nevertheless, not be any rotation of the casing 5 of Sefton.

Further, although by such a combination, rotation of casing 5 may become possible and the former exclusively forward-looking camera 11 could change place with the former exclusively sideways-looking camera 15, nevertheless, camera 15 would now look forward but would still have an endless number of lines of sight, depending upon the degree of its rotation. Thus, even the combination would not disclose the invention, according to which one single line of sight for both cameras in their respective operative state are required. This feature in the present invention was surprisingly found to enable the substitution of the first camera by the second camera while retaining the exact exposure position and line of sight. The exchange of the cameras did not give rise to any discontinuity within the image dataset. This feature of the invention is far beyond what a person ordinary skilled in the art would have proposed. Hence, it is submitted that this is another reason why claims 1 and 9 are patentable.

So, too, the teachings of Sefton in combination those of Wasson, again, assuming such a combination were permissible, might enable a person of ordinary skilled in the art to specify a method for pipe inspection comprising exposing the circumference of the pipe; transmitting the image dataset via a signal transmitter; receiving the image dataset through a remote command center; controlling the transmission and reception by control means; storing the image dataset on data processing means; displaying the images retrieved from the image dataset on a monitor; and creating and linking a position tag by manual interaction to suspicious images only. And, further, although neither Sefton nor Wasson

disclose unrolling the circumference to obtain a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional object, this method to process images of curved areas is well-known in cartography.

But creating a locus for unrolling the circumference in order to be able to automatically assign details to the respective locus, as recited in claim 9, would not be present in any combination of Sefton or Wasson. This feature of the present invention provides for a strongly accelerated and comfortable evaluation of the image dataset without the need for a permanent supervision of the images while exposure.

In sum, even if a person skilled in the art would replace the four-fold cantilever 16 by a gimbal bearing, thus combining Sefton with Wasson, that combination would not teach the claimed invention.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sefton et al. (GB 2,342,419 A) in view of Wasson (US 6,621,516 B1) in further view of McGrew et al. (US 7,073,979 B2).

It is submitted that McGrew is not prior art because its disclosure date is November 23, 2003 which is later than Applicant's June 25, 2003 priority date. (Applicant's Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application, claiming the June 25, 2003 priority date, is annexed hereto.)

Further, even if McGrew was prior art, which it is not, claim 8 is dependent from claim 1 and the reasons why claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Sefton and Wasson, so too, is claim 8 patentable over the combination of Sefton, Wasson and McGrew. Thus, even, assuming arguendo, that Sefton, Wasson and McGrew may be combined, McGrew does not disclose any of the elements, missing from the combination

of Sefton and Wasson, which render claim 1 patentable. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 8 is patentable over any combination of Sefton, Wasson and McGrew.

Accordingly, by this amendment, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below, to advance the application to allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Dated: March 3, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket: G33-114US

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

*English Language Declaration*

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

DOLLY

the specification of which (check one):

☐ Is attached hereto

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, and  
was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Applications \_\_\_\_\_ Priority Claimed

<u>EP2004/006780</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>23-Jun-2004</u>	YES	NO
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	[ x ]	[ ]
<u>203 09 864.1</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>25-Jun-2003</u>	YES	NO
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	[ x ]	[ ]

I hereby claim the benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of the following United States Provisional Application:

Priority Claimed

_____	_____	YES	NO
(Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	[ ]	[ ]

Atty. Docket: G33-114US

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

This application is a \_\_\_\_\_ of (Check One) ☐ U.S. / ☐ International

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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